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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

WITH

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

AND

THE PRESIDENT'S WORK IN THE STATE.

ILLINOIS WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

1891.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

178.50
WOIL
1891

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

MRS. LOUISE S. ROUNDS.

Beloved Sisters and Co-Workers:

"While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand;
When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall;
And when Rome falls—the world!"

Such was the proud boast of that haughty race of conquerors when that massive pile of stone rose up, "arches on arches," glinting and gleaming in the sunlight of an Italian sky.

Within that mighty arena,

"The buzz of eager nations ran
In murmured pity, or loud roared applause,
As man was slaughtered by his fellow-man."

The centuries have swept adown "the ringing grooves of Time," and this proud monument of a nation's barbaric splendor wears to-day the name of "*ruins*," and her crumbling stones like dropping tears have worn a tell-tale path from dome to dusty street, while silence claims unchallenged right to rule the scene!

Turn from that colossal skeleton of architectural pride and power, from that arena where the gladiator gave his life blood for wage of praise as cheerfully as did the toiler his sweat for wage of bread; turn from the bewildering tints the moonlight flashes on those cold, gray stones as if to charm with beatific vision the perturbed spirit of the traveler from painful contemplation;—from all these turn your eyes upon another scene in that same "eternal city," and behold another granite pile standing like a lone sentinel on watch and guard:—

"While history with anointed spears,
Writes out the story of the rushing years!"

Draw near, and on this smooth, stone tablet behold the thrilling words, "*Christus Regnat!*"

Beyond the age when the marvelous Coliseum reared its walls; beyond the day when the she-wolf nourished Rome's founder; beyond the fall, because beyond the rise of any nation—*Christus Regnat!* In this world's old and newer reckonings, in this harvest time of all the yesterdays and the radiance of all life's shinny deeds of power; over all the

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towering arches fame has built, or monuments of grace or guilt, high over all kings and thrones and sceptered hands—*Christus Regnat!* And when time shall have brought all nations and kingdoms, all monuments and those who reared them to one common level; when the proud names that have been written and those that shall yet be graven on granite gray shall have all disappeared, then in a more glorious light than ever shone from earthly skies, in a softer radiance than ever fell from glinting stars, the name we love so well and which is above every name will shine on forever in that only eternal city wherein John saw no temple; “For the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it,” and Christ shall reign forever!

Dear comrades, the glorious days of autumn with their own significance bring us together to celebrate our annual *Harvest Home*!

We come with no proud boastings nor with the pomp and heraldry of power; no gladiator struggles in our arena with any beast, save the one like unto which John saw in the apocalyptic vision which “had seven heads and ten horns, and which ascended out of the bottomless pit and goeth into perdition.” No tears have wet our historic page, other than tears of sorrow over wrongs long endured and unavenged, or tears of joy that at last the morning dawns of a better, brighter day for all the race.

We come not to draw invidious comparisons between the reapers, but the rather to rejoice over the success which to-day crowns the labors of our white-ribbon forces.

We are not to become discouraged if some press by, bearing heavy sheaves, while we follow on with only handfuls of the shining, fulfilled promises. We are not here to complain because our early and long continued toil brought us no greater meed of praise or pence than that of some sister worker who stood nearly “all the day idle.” Let us remember that some of us have reaped where others sowed, and some come bringing sheaves to-day that others would have brought had not the Master called them from service to reward. The record of the year is closed and for the future with ever increasing emphasis,

Let love our weapon be, our armor strong,
Our strength in labor and our joy in song.

THE POWER OF CHOICE.

There is one, and one only, great crisis in each human life, one supreme opportunity for us to choose or refuse the path which leads to the coronation day of power. To the careless or distracted soul, to the heart and mind preoccupied with trivial things, the supreme moment is lost, the opportunity passes unnoticed and the talent, unused, is folded away in a napkin to be brought forth as a silent witness on some sad judgment day. Each year gives clearer evidence that the Woman’s

Christian Temperance Union came into being not by chance, not by the sudden impulse of some feverish soul, but by the demands of the hour which beheld this beloved land of ours fast going into hopeless bondage to the liquor traffic. Wicked men laughed and sneered at our Crusade call to battle, forgetting, that

“Vengeance Divine to punishment moves slow ;
The slower is its pace, the surer is its blow.”

An Arab proverb says, “Three things come not back: the arrow, the spoken word and the lost opportunity.” There is no such thing as doing our work over again. Every effort put forth, every deed accomplished, stands for good or ill in motive and result, and has gone like the arrow never to return. Would we but give more serious thought to this great fact, how careful would we be to so order our lives that the arrow tip of every act, of every word should be dipped, not in the poison which rankles and kills, but in the balm of love which soothes and comforts and which brings us into the old Eden compact again, to be ratified by the presence of God.

PURPOSELESS PEOPLE.

A man or woman without a controlling moral purpose in their lives is just so much human driftwood. The keynote of Daniel's life is found in the one word, purpose. “And Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.” That purpose gave his name to history and his life as an inspiration to young men of all centuries.

But how pitifully true it is that the world is full of purposeless people, who, drifting with the tide care little where it bears them. The grave factors in all social, political and religious questions are these same unhappy units of the race.

The reformer, by whatever name called, the religious teacher of whatever creed finds nothing harder to do than to impress sluggish souls with the great truths which they so ignorantly reject.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” was the cry of One whose great love brought Him in contact, close and constant, with those who seemed utterly unable to comprehend the spirit of His sacrificial life.

“How can we reach the masses?” is now the cry upon the lips of nearly all prominent workers for the race; but who stops to consider that it was never a question on the Master's lips, nor presented by Him as a problem. The fact is, the masses, as such, do not want to be reached, and organized effort in their behalf is met by organized resistance.

Co-operation with right forces is seldom seen on the part of the masses, except in a blind following now and then of a stronger will and

a louder voice. Quite recently, I held in my hands a piece of silk which bore unimpeachable testimony to having been brought to this country in the good ship, "Mayflower."

That little piece of silk was neither beautiful nor valuable, but I took it eagerly between my fingers and examined carefully its texture.

It was but a remnant of a christening robe on which the children of the Puritans were held as the baptismal drops fell upon their faces, but every thread of that long cherished relic spoke eloquently of those heroic days when a sublime purpose dominated the souls of our forefathers, holding them steady and true amid all their discouragements, in their allegiance to God, to whom they dedicated their children in baptism.

We say heroic days, but they were heroic only because the men who lived in them were heroes!

They embodied in their sturdy religious creed the fact that social security could only be obtained and maintained when men could live where they could enjoy the honest gains of honest labor, and hence the industry of the Puritans was no less emphatic than their religion. There were in those days no "soulless men" as Carlyle calls them, to hang like leeches on the necks of that hardy band of conquerors, and the legacy the Puritans left this nation made no provision for driftwood to be labeled either plebeian or patrician!

Some people have discovered that poverty is a dangerous thing, and so must the old prophet have thought when he prayed to be excused from accepting such a gift, but how many are equally anxious, as was he, to draw back the hands when riches are proffered and the necessity of labor walks away defeated?

We have not, as a nation, said very much against our mad rush for wealth which has brought upon us almost as severe criticism as any that the grasping Jew endures; not even social and moral reformers have lifted up as yet very loud voices against the crime of superfluous wealth; but all can see with but little effort that poverty is a dangerous element in society and the constant forerunner of crime.

Professor Ely, of Johns Hopkins University, says that there are *three million paupers* in the United States. If this statement be true, and certainly Professor Ely would not endanger his reputation by careless utterances, then we have the chief factor in the social problem represented by these three million purposeless paupers of whom it can be truly said they are seemingly without hope and without God in the world.

Somewhere something is radically wrong that such a state of things can be found to exist in a country so young and yet so rich as ours. There must be soulless people in larger numbers than we think, people whose hands are on the political and commercial levers of our government, else this distressing and evidently increasing army of paupers would cease to march to the muffled music of their own sobs and groans, their wrongs and crimes.

The labor reformers from Henry George down, vex their brains with tiresome thought as to remedial plans ; now clamoring for equal distribution of wealth, now asking for still larger sums from the already charitably inclined, or demanding with a loud voice continuous employment with proper remunerative wages for all who can work ; and still the disease increases, the wisest are baffled, and against this frightful contagion we seem powerless to provide.

Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of our early statesmen and philosophers, said with remarkable sagacity, that "he who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world."

The revolving years have ripened the fruit of which his faith and hope were the sweet blossoms, and hastened the coming of that better day by changing the pronoun of his prophecy ; for woman, not man, sounded for our distressed nation the first real bugle blast of deliverance, when on that never-to-be-forgotten crusade morn she challenged the liquor traffic to "halt," charged it with the crime of producing two-thirds of this awful pauperism, and demanded the pass-word of its political power !

The astonished van-guard of this most diabolical business of the age, fell back in dismay and, seemingly forgetting that they were commissioned scouts of the government, suffered the women to capture them and their ill-gotten stores.

This spasm of virtue and fear did not last long, but it served to call the attention of this nation to the real animus of the liquor traffic, and flashed a light into the minds of the voters of the rank and file which the managing politicians have been vainly endeavoring ever since to extinguish, viz., that this government was not organized in its national, State and municipal forms for the protection of the vicious, law-breaking classes. "To admit," says Ruskin, "that because things have long gone wrong, it is impossible to make them go right, is a most fatal doctrine and becomes a source of despair from which even good men find it hard to escape."

No year in all American history has borne such significant promise of redemption from these ills as has this. Out of the turbulent sea of American politics ; from the midst of the raging waves of socialism and the burning lava of anarchistic eruptions ; from the shifting sands of public thought which ever and anon change the course of public opinion, there comes the rising of our Bethlehem star of hope once more, and "peace on earth, good will to man," is once again our song of joy, and once again our gleam of promised rest.

" Even as the sun,
Ere it has risen, sometimes paints its image
In the atmosphere, so often do the spirits
Of great events stride on before the events,
And in to-day already walks to-morrow ! "

PUBLIC OPINION

which will reflect an intelligent and enlightened conscience, must rule this great National Commonwealth. The political opinions of individuals are gathered into the platforms of political parties, just as the religious opinions of individuals are gathered into the creeds of the sects ; but even as the day has gone by when religious leaders can compel blind allegiance to church dogmas or implicit obedience to "the teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men," so has passed away, and we hope forever, the arrogancy and dictatorship of political leaders who seek, not the supremacy of principles, but the supremacy of parties. The need of the hour, the demand of the times is for the ascendency of a central, royal principle, the enthronement of a power, the unfolding of a banner around which the moral class of voters in this country can rally and crown Truth their King ! The need is imperative ! Good men of all shades of political opinions, recognize and confess the undeniable fact that the old parties of to-day no longer merit their loyalty and service. Strenuous efforts are being made to hide the fact that party leaders are panic-stricken over the marked and well-defined dissatisfaction which threatens them with speedy political dissolution. In vain they cry peace ! peace ! tariff ! tariff ! The stampede has already begun ! There is too little peace and too much tariff, and the increasing numbers of deserters from the ranks of the whisky ruled parties, have made more than one man admit that he was "a statesman out of a job"! The people eagerly wait the near, but as yet undiscovered Lincoln, to bear aloft the clean, white banner of Home Protection when, with flying feet and with shouts of joy they will flock to that standard, and crown American freedom with its diadem of power.

Would to God that Illinois might give this nation another Lincoln, to lead with a pure and spotless patriotism in this new and harder struggle for our civil and religious liberties !

And what must be that central, royal principle around which the voters for home are called to rally ?

We answer : The recognition of

GOD IN GOVERNMENT !

In order to see how far we have drifted from the views of the great expounder of the Constitution, Daniel Webster, let us quote a few words from his address on the completion of the Bunker Hill monument. He said : "Let us remember that it is only *religion and morals and knowledge* that can make men respectable and happy under any form of government. Let us hold fast the great truth that communities are responsible as well as individuals ; that no government is respectable which is not just ; that without unspotted purity of public faith, without sacred public principle, fidelity and honor, no mere forms of government, no machinery of laws, can give dignity to political society."

Keeping the declaration of this great mind ever before us, may we not look beyond the physical outbreaks which manifest themselves in strikes, mobs and riotous proceedings, and find the cause of our serious ailments to lie largely in the fact of

DISCOURAGED CITIZENSHIP.

Every physician knows how hard it is to treat successfully a discouraged patient. Hope lends no aid, and faith folds her wings and waits.

Not so where the doctor's tender care and wise remedies are reinforced by the patient's love of life, and personal efforts to find the backward path to health. It may sound somewhat pessimistic, but the large numbers of discouraged men about us, indicate a new and important factor in our governmental life. Not a few good men absolutely refuse to hold office in our smaller towns and villages, while many more stay away entirely from the ballot box. They say, "it is of no use to battle against the vicious classes, and that votes have come now to be so largely a matter of barter and sale, that honesty has no foothold in the unequal struggle." And what, may we ask, has caused this discouraged feeling? I answer, *chiefly, the prostitution of official power to the demand of the lawless and dangerous elements of society.* In proof of this, one has but to travel through the States, where prohibitory liquor laws are upon the statute books, to find that sworn officials of the law refuse to perform their duties, and wink at crimes which ought to send both them and the actual perpetrators to the penitentiary for life.

But you do not need to go so far from home to prove the truth of my statement.

Show me one city in Illinois where the men in municipal office enforce the law as their oath requires. Search the columns of the daily press, selecting those papers only which claim to belong to the better class of journalism, and how often do you read of the utter disregard of law—the abolishment of justice and the connivance, if not actual complicity of those who are supposed to stand as protectors of society. Look at Chicago with her self-confessed coward for a mayor, who openly declares he will not attempt the closing of the saloons on the Sabbath, and not content with that, actually seeks to force upon the city some "all night dram shops" which shall secure the patronage of some night toiler or belated traveler.

Beside him place the Mayor of St. Paul, whose record is set forth in the following description by one, who as a member of a citizens' committee, waited upon his Honor (?) to secure his co-operation in the enforcement of the Governor's proclamation in regard to the Hall-Fitzsimmons prize-fight, which, to the credit of the State of Minnesota be it

said, did not take place. The well-proven charge against the Mayor of St. Paul, is as follows :

" Mayor Smith has never shown himself in favor of the enforcement of any law which seems to have morality as its particular basis. I was one of a committee of citizens who went to Mayor Smith and asked him to close the saloons on the Sabbath, simply in accordance with the ordinance of the city, not even invoking the more strict State statutes. Mr. Smith absolutely refused to do this, and openly declared that he would not. I was also a member of another committee that went to his Honor with the request that base-ball playing should be prevented on the Sabbath, but he absolutely refused to interfere. Another committee requested him to exercise his power over Sunday theaters, but here again he denied the request. During the present mayoralty, houses of ill fame have been run upon the 'wide-open' policy. I do not hesitate to denounce Mayor Smith as the chief abettor of all the lawlessness in which this city abounds, for what shall be said of the chief executive officer of a city who refuses to perform his own duty, defies the proclamation of the Governor and, challenging its validity, promises a sufficient force of police to protect prize-fighters if the management will only go on with the fight."

Yoke with these two specimens of mayors,—and ever keeping Webster's definition of patriotism and honor before our mind—the Mayor of Brooklyn—who, a few weeks ago gave hearty welcome to a Brewers' Convention, and addressed them as men promoting the interests and welfare of the public. We might extend the list, only to weary your patience and intensify your disgust of the spineless men that now hold National, State and Municipal offices.

And what shall we say concerning the managing editors of the great dailies, great only in a long subscription list, who have prostituted their printing presses to the dirty depths of a villainous confederacy with whisky, beer, gambling and other nameless crimes, the meanwhile excusing themselves on the ground that they must publish that which the public wants to read.

An examination of the books of newspapers would show receipts of thousands of dollars for advertising horse-races, prize-fights, dog-fights, low, vile theaters, to say nothing of vile nostrums and viler conundrums known only to the morally depraved and impure. Such papers are reluctant advocates of Social Purity, and dangerous literature for the home life.

OUR DEPARTMENTS.

As I look over the fields of our labor, I can say with great delight and a profound feeling of gratitude, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." I observe each year with ever-increasing pleasure the system and order which is being evolved from our lines of work. Our methods are no longer crude and untested, but the steady application of our prin-

ciples has wrought out for us not only grand results, but also a firm place in the hearts of the people.

We have taken no backward steps; we have asked for no favors from the friends of the foe of our homes. We are coming with steady step to the borders of the promised land—prohibition—and those who are not “fearful and unbelieving” will go over and possess it. I can only refer to a few of the departments each year, and I desire for special reasons to dwell particularly upon two which lead directly to the consideration of the work of Social Purity, a department we must push with more vigor another year. Not caring particularly as to the order in which they should be presented, I will speak first on

PERNICIOUS LITERATURE.

For obvious reasons I use the word pernicious, rather than the word impure. The ever-alert and wide-awake Superintendent of the department known as, “*Suppression of Impure Literature*” has often called our attention to the fearful debauchery of morals going on in this country through the printed page, but not even her vigilant eye has penetrated the darkest corners of this “den of thieves.”

No careful observer can fail to notice the marvelous increase within the last five years of books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers of all kinds. Book stores abound on every hand and are flooded, while news-stands fairly groan under the weight of literature, falsely so-called.

No traveler, no matter how weary can enjoy in peace the peculiar and pleasant sense of isolation on railway train or steamboat, because of the constant solicitation of the news-agent as he perambulates among the passengers intent on selling his wares. No matter if you abruptly or politely decline to buy, he continues to thrust some of his obnoxious stuff into the seat by your side, or perhaps rudely piles up a half-dozen books or pamphlets in your very lap, meanwhile insisting that this combination of small brains, cheap wit, low morals and dirty ink is exactly what you need by way of mental stimulant. Even an added frown on your part, accompanied by wholly unmistakable language neither induces him to lose his patience, cease his efforts nor retire from business. The industry and persistency of the average news-agent is certainly worthy of a better cause. The Hon. E. S. Tobey, of Boston, says: “Pernicious literature is the insidious poison of the mind, and the snare of youth.” While the railroads furnish the main arteries through which flows this sluggish stream of death, the public libraries and news-stands are the chief centers of the disease we have to conquer.

The time was when the public library proved a blessing to the community where it was maintained. History, biography, travels and novels of merit were read with delight and profit. The time was when even the so-called “light literature” gave, though possibly in diluted doses, much healthful teaching concerning honesty, truthfulness and

obedience to parents, while the Christian religion was held sacred in a large degree from the touch of a poisoned pen. But times have changed. The freedom of the press has culminated in a regular criminal school of literature, which sends out by the millions its dime and half-dime novels to be read by most of the boys openly or secretly, as the neglect or vigilance of parents and teachers determine.

The manliness of gambling, lying, fighting and kindred vices are set forth in glowing eloquence, while disobedience to parents is called a virtue and religious people are denounced as frauds and hypocrites.

A head master in one of the Boston schools, who had carefully examined his pupils' reading, declared, "The public library is a curse to the school children." Investigation proves that novels which are the most sensational, those which portray most vividly the follies and vices of men and women, are the most in demand. Many a mother sits quietly in her easy-chair some leisure hour and reads her Chautauquan with ever-increasing delight, while at the same time her boy may have in secret hiding some pamphlet, or illustrated paper so venomous that could the mother see this poison of the soul, as she can that which destroys the body, she would recoil from this mental viper which her child has made his companion, with far more terror than she would from the fatal fangs of the dreaded rattlesnake! Fathers and mothers, do not assume the goodness and innocence of your children. The fascinating fiend of the vile, printed page lurks about your own hearthstone, and is on the watch for *your* boy or girl. Some day the penalty of your carelessness, your indulgence to their demands for "something to read which is not so dull and stupid" will be paid for in a debauched son or a ruined daughter.

You can not afford to remain in ignorance of what your children read, and only the most careful investigation will reveal the depths of the hay-mow, the secret of the innocent appearing straw-mattress, or the safe hiding places of the schoolhouse playground. Never in the history of our country was pernicious literature so systematically and widely circulated as now. The mails are burdened with tons of reading matter that barely escapes the legal definition of impurity, and hence avoids confiscation, but which in point of real truth are intensely dangerous to the minds and morals of the young.

Mr. Thomas K. Cree, Field Secretary of the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, says:

"In Great Britain, Zola's grossly impure French novels are not allowed to be sold, and the publishers are fined and imprisoned. In this country we carry all his books in the mails by the ton, at one cent a pound, while Bibles, miscellaneous and school books, cost eight cents a pound!"

It will surprise you to know that five thousand tons (ten million pounds) of paper covered books are carried in the mails annually from New York City alone, at one cent a pound. The amount of second class mail is a matter of record, but the exact amount of books so mailed,

can not be known, yet it is the opinion of those best able to know, that 5,000 tons is a fair estimate for New York, and half as much more for other cities."

All over the land are scattered far and wide engravings, photographs, pamphlets, leaflets and microscopic charms, all teaching with Satanic skill every stage of impurity, while over this seething mass of printed pollution there hangs to-day a criminal apathy on the part of good people which will in the near future give place to a mournful wail for the children debauched and hopelessly ruined.

Men are so busy with their merchandise and women with their endless home and society fads, that they have no time to look into these things.

God be thanked for an Anthony Comstock and the few other courageous souls, who dare enter and beard this lion in his den. Let us continue to agitate, arrest and annihilate, until this monster sinks into a perdition so black, that the ink which heralded his coming is but a faint type.

To the munificence of Joshua Bates, Boston Library owed its existence, and he stated that it was his chief purpose "to save those, who, if left to themselves would waste their time and destroy their morals in reading the low type of American novels."

To the shame, be it said, of those who have had the management of those funds, it is stated that *one-third of all the books purchased* are novels and story books, and that between three-fourths and four-fifths of the library's circulation is confined to this class.

The following clause appears in the will of the late John Crerar, of Chicago, who bequeathed the magnificent sum of two million dollars for the establishment of a public library in that great city. The clause reads :

"I desire the books and periodicals selected with a view to create and sustain a healthy, moral and Christian sentiment in the community, and that all nastiness and immorality be excluded. I do not mean by this that there shall not be anything but hymn books and sermons, but I mean that dirty French novels and all skeptical trash and works of questionable moral tone shall never be found in this Library.

"I want its atmosphere that of Christian refinement, and its aim and object the building up of character, and I rest content that the friends I have named will carry out my wishes in these particulars."

Behold this dream of John Crerar when it shall stand materialized in marble, brick and stone ; look through its plate glass windows or half open door upon its spotless mosaic floor, and tell me if the masses will be likely to enter there, or any considerable number of the poor people drink from a fountain of such costly splendor ?

Compare the faith of this good man as it shall stand in this embodied form, with the *six thousand saloons* scattered over that city, fully three-fourths of them having on their walls most lascivious pictures ; look upon the advertisements of cigars, cigarettes and tobacco as they are

flaunted in the very faces of good people ; look upon the posters of some of the theatrical companies, look upon the photographs for sale which would have shamed Pompeian frescoes,—and long before you have finished the catalogue you will turn away, saying : "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint."

Gaspingly, some one asks, what can be done to dry up this putrid current of death ? We answer: Let the rich man build the public library, let other rich men establish the extensive, free reading room, but let *parents stand guard at the home and teachers at the school-room doors* that the mischief be not done while yet the children are too young to know their danger. We have been told that Queen Isabella sold her jewels to enable Columbus to discover America ;—why will not American women sell their diamonds and stones of rare and wondrous beauty, if need be, to preserve American youth for the land of freedom and successful self-government ! Let the Woman's Christian Temperance Union continue to sow beside all waters, making especial effort to put *The Union Signal* into every home in Illinois, not forgetting that our State paper, *The Illinois Watch Tower*, is designed to be the constant companion of the National organ.

Remember also that every girl needs the *Oak and Ivy Leaf*, while last but greatest of all, see to it that the children are supplied with *The Young Crusader*.

Let us distribute more freely at our public meetings our Timely Talks and other leaflets, and fairly show the people under with our Gospel and Law temperance literature.

Remember with generous contributions the effort of Mrs. Grubb to put into the hands of every foreigner landing upon our shores a leaflet in his own language which will forewarn and so help to forearm him against his worst enemy, the legalized saloon. This is the glorious mission of our society ; let us do our work well,—

"For soon or late, the time will come,
When witnesses that *now* are dumb,
With grateful eloquence will tell
From whom the seed now scattered fell."

HEREDITY AND HYGIENE.

Marion Harland says: "The foundation of a happy home is laid in the kitchen."

To be happy a family must be healthy, and a healthy family is one where every member points with index finger to certain hygienic laws observed by the mainspring in every household, *the cook*. The French place cooking among the arts, and a proficient in that line is called an artist. And pray why not ? The sculptor who can chisel out of cold marble an ideal face or form, the painter who can make dull canvas breathe, are called artists, but have, perhaps, no greater right to the

patent of nobility in the realm of genius, than one, who, working under the laws of chemistry and common sense, transforms the elements of nature's products into healthy flesh and bone and muscle.

Into the domain of the cook I venture with timidity, remembering that I speak not as an artist, for my path of Christian Endeavor never lay beside the mangled remains of beast or bird; but the rather to eat what was set before me, asking no questions for other reasons than the one of conscience!

"The autocrat of the breakfast table," received his inspiration largely from the autocrat of the kitchen, or at least so much of it, that we can easily trace the influence of her toothsome viands as they were translated into his winsome words, via a clear, well-nourished brain. Henry Ward Beecher was accredited with the saying that a man afflicted with dyspepsia could not enjoy religion.

If that is true, there bids fair to be a dearth of saints on earth, whatever may be the conditions of the heavenly world where, fortunately, we shall hunger no more. A sound mind in a sound body, should be the motto of every woman who has the ordering and the cooking of the daily bill of fare for the family.

Every man who provides good material for his wife to cook, has the right to well prepared, palatable, wholesome food.

There is a religion of the body as well as of the soul, and when we remember that these bodies of ours are the temples of the *Holy Ghost*, we should deem no care too great, no duty irksome that gives us in return the best physical conditions.

Muddy coffee, sour bread, steak under or over done, too much meat diet, especially of pork, with general untidiness of the table is enough to drive any man who is at all sensitive into chronic irritability, moderate drinking or actual drunkenness.

Nutritious food and plenty of it is a better protector of the nation, than a standing army. In these days of God's favor and bounty there is enough to furnish every family in the land with healthful food, but, alas! how many there are who fail utterly in the preparation of these good gifts. I once heard an eminent physician remark that often when traveling the only things he found upon some tables that he could eat without violating his conscience, were milk and the crust of the bread. Pepper and spices, sugar and grease are effective weapons against the strongest stomach. I think it would be well to have this department read: Heredity and Hygiene, for heredity culminates where hygiene begins.

Borne to us by divine revelation before its threads are woven in song or told in story, is the beginning of this beautiful web of human life given to us. To handle it roughly in its early embodiment is profanation, to poison it with alcohol, tobacco or vile food is *sin*. There is always a way out for poor, troubled humanity, but evermore in earth's affairs God works by means.

One of these, and in harmony with His revealed will in the blessed book, is for parents to leave their children a clean, physical legacy.

The State recognizes the right of the child to his portion of the paternal estate, and stands ready to defend that right and protect the child. When will the State begin to recognize the right of the child to inherit a physical constitution unimpaired by the vicious habits of the parents? When will it strike off the shackles of alcohol and tobacco and give the child the right to be well born? Not one of all our departments deserves more attention than this, for it is the doctrine of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, put into earnest, practical shape.

We must, if true to our principles strive to reach that high ideal when not a woman in our ranks will be found who will subordinate her judgment on these grave questions to undisciplined affections which too often lead the victim to the dismal swamp of broken vows, broken hopes, and at last, broken hearts! They who sin against their own bodies sin against their offspring and forget that

"A sacred burden is the life we bear;
Look on it, lift it, bear it tenderly;
Stand up and walk beneath it steadfastly.
Fail not for sorrow, falter not for sin,
But onward, upward, till the goal we win."

OUR NEW SCHOOL SUFFRAGE LAW.

I propose to touch but briefly this topic, for to Miss Helen L. Hood, my brave and true comrade, and your faithful Secretary belongs the honor of carrying out successfully the plans of our Legislative Committee, of which she is Chairman.

She has prepared for you a most interesting report, and I gladly pay her this tribute of praise for her unwearying efforts, wise plans and constant attention to the details of a bill which meant so much, not only to the women of the State, but far more to the children. We can not value too highly the privilege conferred upon us by the Legislature, nor hold too tenaciously our newly acquired rights. This is the first time that this State by legislative enactment has recognized woman as a governmental factor. It should be to us a matter of honest pride, as it will be for us a matter of permanent history, that it was the hand of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union which opened this door of power.

We did not accomplish this great work in a day, nor a year, nor indeed in a decade; for away back in the early days of our existence as an organization we presented a mammoth petition to our legislators, and since that time we have often visited them, until at last, weary of

our coming they gave us school suffrage. Begging the pardon of Edgar Allan Poe, we can say, that

Deep into that darkness peering, long we stood there,
wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no women ever dared to
dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave
no token,
That they heard the word there spoken, which was
Ballot, evermore;
Thus we whispered, when at last came back the echo,
And they murmured, sore disgruntled : "Take it,"—
Merely this, and nothing more.

The floating rumor that it may be taken from us by the Supreme Court of the State, should not deter us from standing bravely up to the line of duty and test the validity of our claim. Do not be afraid of the lions that appear in the way,—doubtless they are toothless old things far more afraid of us than we can possibly be of them. But if they prove to be really savage and show their teeth and growl fiercely, if it should come to pass that we are denied the right to vote, we shall only be thrown back upon the privilege of again besieging the legislature and the first time they meet they will find

That the women, never flitting, still are sitting,
still are sitting,
On the costly seats at Springfield, just inside the
Senate door;
And their eyes have all the seeming of an angel's
that is dreaming;
And the gaslight o'er them streaming, throws their shadows
on the floor;
And their presence from those shadows that lie float-
ing on the floor,
Shall be banished—*nevermore!*

THE TEMPERANCE TEMPLE !

The dream of that indefatigable worker, Mrs. Carse, has come true ; the Temperance Temple has materialized in brick and stone. Every lover of our cause on coming to Chicago, seeks out this wonderful building only to stand before it astonished, and saying as did one of old : "The half had not been told me."

It will be wholly true to say that it is by far the handsomest public building in that city. It is unique ! It stands alone in the midst of other proud and lofty structures as the embodiment of the faith and works of the white-ribbon women.

When the balmy breath of the spring of '92 shall wake all nature into smiles and tears and gala dress, we hope to see the Temple completed and ready for occupancy. In order that we may not be disappointed, it is necessary that we continue to send in our gifts, small or great as the Lord has prospered us. Illinois has made a noble record for this beautiful building, and heads the list of States in stock and contributions. Mrs. Carse emphatically says that she does not want the Unions to take the money which they send, from their local treasuries, but to keep the "Temple mite-box" on their home center table or the convenient mantel, with a description of the building by its side—the little Temple leaflet—so that the happy, genial caller may be made much more so by dropping in a shining dime or "quarter" and thus help hasten the finishing touch on this, the most magnificent building ever reared by women.

THE TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.

is also a steady torch for the cause of our great principles. The Unions of Illinois have not come up to this important matter as they might and should have done.

True, there is but little sentiment in the work of establishing and running a hospital: possibly even less, if you prefix the word Temperance. We associate the word, hospital, with sickness and pain, and that very fact ought to keep our hearts alive with zeal and tenderest sympathy for those who seek the physician's skill. How comforting it is to know that there is one place at least where they can find both doctors and medicine free from the pollution of alcohol. It is my most earnest request that each Union this coming year send the modest sum of one dollar to our National Hospital. The Seventeenth District at its Convention pledged fifteen boxes of fruits, jellies, bedding of all kinds, and many other good things. Let each district go and do likewise. Keep your hospital mite barrels always in sight.

THE ILLINOIS WATCH TOWER.

As you will have a full report of this child of our love and care, by its able editor, Mrs. A. E. Sanford, I will not take the time to discuss its merits. My heart rejoices over the success which has come to our State paper. No better editor can be found, no better mechanical work can be desired. It is not made up from "clippings," but is almost wholly composed of original matter. My dream concerning it is, twice its present size with portraits and character sketches of our State workers; I am wondering how many will help make my dream come true.

We need just such a paper—all our very own, as this is, which will be a 'telephone' between State Officers, District Presidents, and State Superintendents and the great army of the rank and file. It was a

happy thought on the part of the Committee, to ask each Union for one dollar to help start the machinery going, and it would have been a happier fact if all the Unions had responded. It seems wise, and I recommend that we continue this plan, and will the Unions send their dollars as early in the year as possible? Let us be prompt, for every duty quickly done gives added zest to life.

Push the subscription list up to at least 2,500 this coming year. There is nothing more contagious than enthusiasm—let us see to it that every white-ribboner catches it and holds on to it, and the State be fairly carpeted with this paper which will help the tired feet of some of our workers who feel the burden is heavier than they can bear, and the path too steep for them to climb.

THE RECORD OF THE YEAR

is one of which we may justly be proud.

First—The State is completely organized.

Second—Over sixteen thousand names enrolled under our white banner; a larger membership than we have recorded any previous year.

Third—Twenty-five departments thoroughly equipped under the direction of able Superintendents.

Fourth—Every one of the Twenty Districts with an earnest, consecrated Christian woman at its head as President.

Fifth—A semi-monthly State paper well established, and ably edited.

Sixth—A law giving women the ballot on school questions, secured by the efforts of the W. C. T. U. of the State.

Illinois stands second on the roll of States in membership—and first in *Union Signal* subscription list, first in systematic lines of work and general results—and first in numerical strength of Loyal Temperance Legions.

OUR FALLEN COMRADES.

Once again we stop in the midst of Convention duties to hold memorial service for our promoted soldiers. The list this year is larger than ever before, and death has borne away some of our bravest and best.

In the letters that came to me giving the names of the departed, were some most touching words concerning their love and faithful service.

One writes: "Our beloved sister was one of the most faithful of our band, and although an invalid, and never able to attend the meetings, yet she never forgot to send her love and a Scripture text." *Never forgot* are the words of significance, in the brief record.

Another says: "I have sent names every year, but this year I send that of my own precious mother."

Ah! yes—the "precious mothers" are slipping out of our earthly

homes into the "mansions prepared"—some to wait for and some to join the precious fathers and other beloved ones in that country where there is no more death.

Another tells of the dear one gone, as having been a great sufferer for years—but adds, "She was always interested, and one of her last acts was to pay her annual dues." What power there is in fidelity in little things. Two of our number died on the mission fields of Africa; and here comes the sad cry from a Union—"We are almost crushed over the death of two of our number—mother and daughter—the one strong and active in our work, the other in usual health in the morning, and before night had gone to join her daughter."

Among our honorary members appears the name of Mr. P. R. K. Brotherson, the father of our dearly beloved and earnest State Superintendent of Sabbath Observance—Mrs. Lucie B. Tyng. All who have been guests in that lovely home will remember the gentle and courtly presence of this beloved father, and honored citizen, and will give our sister the love and sympathy of their hearts. And still another aged soldier laid down his armor for a crown and passed on to his reward, Mr. John Cooper Grier, the precious father of our own Mrs. Elizabeth Hibben, President of the Tenth District. Think of these two brave comrades,—honored members indeed of our royal army—true to us and our cause, lo, these many years, and now, *gone home together!* Over against the name of Mr. Brotherson are the figures—1811-1891—and against the name of Mr. Grier, 1808-1891.

" Well may this body poorer, feebler grow !
 It is undressing for its last sweet bed ;
 But why should the soul, which death shall never know,
 Authority, and power, and memory shed ?
 It is that love with absolute faith may wed ;
 God takes the inmost garments off his child,
 To hold him in his arms, naked and undefiled."

THE FINAL STRUGGLE.

The signs of the times clearly indicate that we are nearing more rapidly than we think the final struggle between the American Home, and the Anti-American saloon! This has been a year of unusual activity among the brewers, distillers and saloon-keepers. The liquor oligarchy has assumed greater proportions than ever before, and is correspondingly more arrogant and aggressive. It no longer tries to conceal its true purpose to secure, if possible, the possession of the machinery of the National Government, while it demands greater freedom from restraint and more recognition of its power. It demands the surrender of society to its unholy keeping.

Failing to capture the Supreme Court of the United States, and consequently the repeal direct of the prohibitory law of the State of Kansas,

it takes the tortuous course of re-submission, hoping to accomplish with money in the purchase of votes what it failed to secure by threats before the highest judiciary of the land. It has mapped out a complete campaign against every prohibitory State, and will suffer nothing to be left undone that will help to reinstate it in power and freedom of influence.

It demands the overthrow of Sabbath laws, and threatens the managers of the Columbian Exposition with the withholding of its exhibit unless its behests are heeded. It has knocked at the doors of various State legislatures and demanded recognition and protection of its interests. The columns of its newspaper organs abound in threats, denunciations and calls upon the fraternity everywhere to cancel all party affiliations and support for office only such candidates as will utter the shibboleth of the vile business. The State Liquor Dealers' Protective Association of Illinois in their last annual meeting adopted the following :

" We declare that as American citizens engaged in a legitimate business, recognized by the Constitutions of the States and the United States, paying an enormous revenue to the National and a large license to the local governments, providing employment to a great number of people, and with purse-strings ever open to subscribe to every proper charitable purpose, it is our right to demand of our legislators a proper protection of our rights as business men and as citizens, instead of permitting themselves to be misled by fanatics, who never had at heart the best interests of our government, and who contribute little or nothing to its sustenance and support.

" We therefore declare it to be the imperative duty of every member of this organization, and every other person engaged in or relying on the liquor business for support, irrespective of their party affiliations, to support only such candidates for office as have in the past demonstrated by their actions that they are in favor of personal liberty, and to use all honorable means to defeat those who through fear or fanaticism have been against that principle."

By these and many other evidences we are reminded that our enemy is not going to give up the contest, nor quickly surrender to laws that now exist or may be enacted which look to the restriction of his power. To oppose this array of war-like preparations we gladly record a few facts which show that the forces for truth and justice are not asleep nor indifferent to the demands of the hour.

Standing grandly in the forefront of the battle is the Supreme Court of the United States which says : " There is no inherent right in a citizen to sell intoxicating liquors ; it is not a privilege of the State, nor of a citizen of the United States."

A long list of States show agitation and advanced legislation upon the subject, and nearly all religious assemblies have put themselves into an uncompromising attitude before the legalized business. Notably the Methodist Rock River Conference at its recent session. The long array of declarations to this effect by schools, both religious and secular, by religious bodies both orthodox and heterodox, the decisions of courts from the United States Supreme to the lowest court in the land all clearly indicate

that the final struggle is near at hand and the supremacy of the home or the saloon to be established. The hour has struck for a more rapid crystallization of public sentiment, into not simply municipal or even statutory law, but into a *National Constitutional Prohibitory Amendment* which will strike at both the manufacture and sale of the diabolical drink, and bring this government out of the scandalous position of being a willing and well paid partner in a business which degrades manhood, destroys childhood and debauches citizenship. This is the situation in the briefest possible outline.

THE PROHIBITION PARTY

is still the only political hope of our anxious hearts. That it may not prove a mirage to our straining eyes, it must consolidate its forces and "*go forward!*" This is not the hour in which to toy with factions, whose divided hearts and distracted brains give no assurance of either wisdom in council or fidelity to conscience! This is not the day to follow any banner, save the pure white one of Prohibition on which is inscribed the ever glorious motto : "*For God and Home and Native Land.*"

The party that secures the allegiance of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of this State, must declare for God in Government, and acknowledge Christ as rightful King! While the prohibition of the liquor traffic must continue to be the chief plank in the platform of the Prohibition party, there are other and grave questions which demand recognition and must be met. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union stands for the preservation of our Sabbath, and the sanctity of marriage laws! We shall undertake to champion the preservation and freedom of our public schools from the governing touch of ecclesiastical power, be it either Protestant or Roman Catholic! and will wage relentless war upon those who seek to uproot this national tree of our Father's planting. We shall never cease to declare that the morals of a people are the foundation of its prosperity, and that our laws are but a reflex of our morals. Hence, we hold it as an imperative necessity for the perpetuity of this form of government that the public schools should place "*The Science of Government*" and "*Political Economy*" upon the list of text-books, thereby instructing the children in the great principles which will enable them to be intelligent voters and worthy citizens of this Republic.

No truer words were ever uttered than those that fell from the lips of James A. Garfield when, in his inaugural address he sounded this note of alarm :

"The voters of the Union who make and unmake constitutions, and upon whose will hang the destinies of our government, can transmit their supreme authority to no successors save the coming generation of voters, who are the sole heirs of sovereign power. If that generation

comes to its inheritance, blinded by ignorance and corrupted by vice, the fall of the republic will be certain and without remedy."

We stand for the elimination of the vicious, ignorant ballot, and ask that intelligence be required of the citizen who helps to make the laws.

We believe that woman has the same right as a man to the full powers of the ballot, and we shall continue to agitate, and if need be, irritate, until the ballot-box becomes for us what it is politically for our brothers, the hiding place of power.

Nor do we stop here. We look with alarm upon the fact that during the last decade *five millions and a quarter* of foreigners have landed on our shores. What this means, to both the civil and religious institutions of America, let those answer who have given careful attention to the pregnant fact. We see our home-born boys restrained from the enjoyment of their natural heritage of governmental power until twenty-one years have brought them through the gates of law to man's estate ; while on every hand we behold the ignorant and vicious, from all nations under the sun, crowding the path to the ballot-box, and with but small compliance with legal requirements, possibly none at all, step at once to the management of our political affairs. We utter a strong and emphatic protest ! To Americans belong the right to rule America !

All these, as we have said, are grave questions. Judging the future by the past, we confidently expect the *Home Protection Party* to do what neither of the old rum controlled parties can do, viz., to stand squarely upon a platform composed of these principles despite the criticism of friends, the calumny of foes and the ostracism of masked cowardice ! Standing thus, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Illinois pledges to it once more our influence and our prayers !

" Father in heaven, we turn not back,
Though briars and thorns choke up our path.
Rather the torture of the rack,
Than tread the wine-press of Thy wrath.
Let thunders crash ; let torrents pour ;
Let whirlwinds churn the raging sea ;
What is the turmoil of an hour,
To an eternal calm with Thee ? "

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

HELEN L. HOOD.

George Macdonald says: "All things belong to every man who yields his selfishness which is his *one* impoverishment, and draws near to his wealth, which is humanity,—not humanity in the abstract, but the humanity of friends and neighbors and all men." There is surely no text which the W. C. T. U. has more closely adhered to than this one, for "humanity," its weal or woe, has been with them a matter of consideration and regard these many years. Its work touches upon the strings of human joys, and human sorrows, obtaining an insight into motives and deeds, making for itself the record as an organization of *helpfulness* to all classes of men. It can of a surety claim for one of its mottoes that saying which is full of meaning: "We, then, that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and *not* to please ourselves." Any movement which seeks to impress itself upon the public mind, as one of worth and merit, must cast off from itself *selfishness* of aim and motive, and rise above low elevations, ascending to higher planes of action. Purity of purpose, honesty of intention, openness of methods pursued, "not willing that any should perish," determination to pursue to the end the policy adopted, steadfastness of intention, are elements which will make a movement stand strong and true in life's combat, and give it place in the world's history. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union as an organization, certainly contains all the component parts of a *successful* reform, and is one which already has made for itself *history*. It does not theorize and do nothing towards realizing such theories, but in *practical* forms of work and methods it carries out its ideas. It is, therefore, with pleasure that we come to our annual conventions and find out *what* has been done during the year, count over the victories gained, examine our failures and gather in the harvest of a twelve months' work.

First, to our Heavenly Father must we return thanks for the bless-

ings which have been given us, for the year has been a *good one*, a *prosperous one*, and in the Master's vineyard we have been able to sow and reap bountifully. Our State officers and Executive Committee, answer each to their names on the roll-call; none are missing, all are found in their places. At our midwinter Executive meeting, two new superintendents were added to our number; Mrs. Belle Hunter, a true "white-ribboner," loved by us all for her faithful work, was obliged, owing to ill-health, to resign as Superintendent of Heredity, and Mrs. Clara Gould, an active worker of the Seventeenth District, was appointed in her place. Miss Ella Wright, Superintendent of Flower Mission Work, also resigned because of home cares, and Miss Ella Morgan, an efficient worker in the Fifth District, was appointed.

The midwinter Executive meeting minutes show that important measures were at that meeting planned for, not the least of which was the starting of our newspaper, *The Illinois Watch Tower*, which has already won for itself such a grand record in the few months of its existence. All the plans which were planned for at that meeting, and which were sent out to our constituency, have met with a hearty co-operation on their part. Your State President has been almost constantly in the field, with the exception of a few weeks' much needed rest in New York State, and a few weeks' work in Wisconsin. The rest of the time she has been on duty in her own State. The calls that have come to me for her services have been far in advance of any previous years, and while I wish that all such might have been filled, I was not able to do so, and have filed them away for future consideration. May I upon this point say something? In the planning for Mrs. Rounds' dates several things must be taken into consideration, both as regards herself and the Unions,—these are time, travel, expense. No preference has ever been given to one part of the State at the expense of another; all are treated alike except as there is need of work in some districts which are weak and claim special attention on that account. There are still many places in the State where Mrs. Rounds has not been, places of importance, and I would call the attention of District Presidents to this fact, and suggest in the coming year they plan, as far as they can, to have her go to towns where she has never been. While other States have written me, asking for appointments to be made for them, Mrs. Rounds has steadily refused to grant much time outside of her own boundaries, conscientiously filling all her appointments, going night and day, weeks at a time, without ceasing, in the round of work laid out for her in this State. Illinois owes much of its present efficient condition *to her*, and to her endeavors to educate the public up in the cause of *Prohibition*, fearlessly speaking the *truth* as God has revealed it to her. I am not one of those who believe in waiting until *one is dead* before speaking words of appreciation of one's efforts, and so I want, as a loyal comrade, to add this tribute of esteem of her work, and pledge co-operation in the future to one who has been *faithful* in all things to the great trust committed unto her.

THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

The territory in which the greatest amount of organizing has been done is that lying in the Seventh to Nineteenth Districts inclusive. There has been organized during the year, 113 "W's," 40 "Y's," making a total of 153 organizations as compared to 144 of last year. The Fifteenth District has organized the largest number of Unions, 10 "Ws," 15 "Ys," 25 in all. The Fourteenth has organized the second largest number, 13 "W's," 6 "Y's," 19 in all. The Seventh is the third in number, having organized 11 "W's," 6 "Y's," 17 in all. Miss Clara Parrish, the able Organizer in the Fifteenth District, organized the entire number of new Unions that the District has, and much credit must be given her for the amount of work which this number (25) called for. Miss Margaret Crissey, President of the Fourteenth, has organized herself all her new Unions, 15 in number, and this tells that effort and time have been expended. Mrs. Grace Burgess, President of the Seventh, and Mrs. W. P. Kuhl, of the Twelfth, each report an equal number of Unions (11) as having been organized by themselves, and this number means that they have been in the field constantly. Miss Emma Norton, of the Fifth, Mrs. Helen Wright of the Ninth, Miss Mary Mahon, of the Eleventh, Mrs. Boulter, of the Seventeenth, Mrs. West, of the Eighteenth, and Mrs. Board, of the Nineteenth have not rested in their efforts to bring up the work in their respective Districts, and they have succeeded grandly in thus doing. I want to make special mention of the faithful work accomplished in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Districts, which exceeds that done in former years, and it is gratifying to know of this, as it indicates that more interest is being taken in W. C. T. U. work. Mrs. West and Mrs. Board have organized personally most of the new Unions of their Districts. The Seveth, Eighth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Seventeenth have held the greatest number of County Conventions, and every District reports of the increased and excellent attendance at these meetings.

Seventy-four County Conventions have been held, which is an increase of nineteen over last year. Papers and discussions upon all phases of the temperance question and those upon kindred nature have been on the programs of County Conventions; many of such show an acquaintance with the topics treated which could only be acquired by close study and thought. This feature is especially gratifying, and is indicative of the *time* given to systematic study and careful preparation on the part of so many of the membership, and this is a most auspicious omen for grander work in the oncoming years, for when into a movement is brought conscience, thought, intelligence and consecrated brains, the *possibilities* of its future are limitless. Wayne in the Sixteenth, Franklin in the Nineteenth, Massac and Pope in the Twentieth, are the four counties where we have no organizations. The Third District, located in Chicago, was this year organized with its full complement of officers, Mrs. H. L. Clarke being the President. Owing to the

re-districting of Chicago, four Unions were added to it from the Fourth District. The roster of the District Presidents remains unchanged this year with the exception of the Thirteenth District, Mrs. Eva Munson Smith, and the Sixteenth District, which has elected Miss Clara Brehm, of Claremont, both of whom we welcome to our circle. The Fourteenth District has the largest membership. The Fifteenth District the next. The Fifteenth District has the largest number of Unions, 65 in all. The Seventh ranks next, having 63. The District having the largest membership is the Fourteenth. While mention has been made of some of the Districts as to the number of new organizations and membership, I would not have it thought that the others have been idle,—far from that! The work this year has been somewhat of an uneven nature, for while some of the Presidents have forged ahead and increased their Unions, others have directed more attention to the weaker points, caring for those who needed attention. This year has found more of the Presidents, both of County and District, directly in the field than any previous year. While the central and southern parts of the State have been actively at work, the northern has not been idle, but shows a good record, largely in increased membership.

Certainly, as one reads over the reports of the Districts and counties, they are impressed with the thought that mighty forces are being set in motion, the momentum of which is ever increasing, the circles of thought ever widening, until surely there *must* come the glad day when Illinois will be free of saloons.

"We are apt sometimes," says one writer, "to take our civilization for granted as an inalienable possession, forgetting that civilization is a prize won by the human race with incredible difficulty, and retained only on the condition of eternal vigilance, on the condition of unremitting, ceaseless education."

Truer words were never spoken than these, for "unremitting ceaseless education" must be carried on if the victory of great ideas is gained. Who knows better the truth of this saying than the "white-ribboner," for educational forces are the levers which must be used to pry out old roots of prejudice and ignorance. It is in season and out, in public and private, that the work goes on, never ceasing, never ending.

One only needs to read the reports, as they come from the different Unions to understand where the great forces are located, which push onward the car, for the local Union is the focus point of our entire work, supplying the power to make it possible for a great work to be done. Reports have come from nearly four hundred Unions, and it would fill a volume to tell all the interesting data which is found in them. Reports from large Unions, reports from small, from weak ones, from strong ones, but all telling the same story, all working to the one end and aim,—the abolition of the liquor traffic.

The Rockford Union of the Sixth District has the largest membership. The Decatur Union of the Fourteenth District is second. Over

two million four hundred thousand pages of literature have been distributed by the Unions. One hundred and thirteen Unions have reported, out of the four hundred, as having headquarters, and this being located where the public can find us out is certainly a great help in bringing to the notice our work.

Demorest Medal Contests have been held everywhere, and are a great source of help financially to the Unions holding them, besides doing a splendid work among the public. Among the noticeable contests was that of Effingham county, where contestants from various points of the county held a grand gold medal contest at Effingham. A grand parade of children, a tent full of enthusiastic people, good music, good speeches made up a program which was one of the best ever presented in our State and which gladdened the heart of Mrs. Ada Kepley, the County Superintendent, who is one of the best Superintendents our State has, and I would that more of such might be carried on in every county.

Over two hundred and fifty-six Unions have held *special revival services*. Who can compute what good these have done? Mrs. Hathaway, our consecrated State Superintendent of Evangelistic Work, assisted by Mrs. Anna M. Palmer, of Iowa, Mrs. Rounds and others, have broken the bread of life to many hungry souls, and I trust this coming year every one of our Unions will plan to hold these services, for I am sure a great blessing will come upon all those who have them.

"Schools of Methods," "parliamentary drills," "Scientific Temperance Institutes," and summer camps have been carried on by a large number of Unions, and have accomplished grand results. It is at these meetings, many of them, that the great outside public is gotten hold of, and so many are converted. The State has never before had so many speakers and workers in it, going about from point to point, as this year. Governor St. John, Mrs. Lathrap, Hoffman, Wallace, Moore, Gougar, Colonel Bain, and others have been in the field, and while all of them have not talked directly for W. C. T. U., our Unions have largely been called upon to help bear the expenses and have received benefits from their coming. I have no figures this year from which to make a definite statement as to the amount of money raised by the local Unions for local work, but I know that it is a goodly sum. Liberal gifts have been sent the "Temperance Temple," which now is so near completion, and is one of the handsomest buildings in Chicago, and we hope another year to have our Headquarters in the beautiful building.

A number of Unions have inquired from us at Headquarters, concerning the efficacy of so-called "gold cures," and for the last few weeks, a good deal has been said concerning the position taken by the W. C. T. U. and Miss Willard. *The Union Signal*, of October 1st, contains an editorial by Miss West, which in an able and conclusive manner treats the question. Every member should carefully read this. The W. C. T. U. has taken *no antagonistic* position regarding the treatment,

but on the contrary, has a friendly feeling towards any movement which will cure drunkenness. Baseless reports have been circulated against Miss Willard in this connection, and articles, *venomous* and bitter in nature have gone the round of the *public press*. Let every member of our organization read Miss Willard's statement also in *The Union Signal* of October 1st, and then constitute herself a committee of *one* to circulate it.

In connection with this review of what our local Unions have done, may I not touch briefly upon a little which has been done in Chicago? Here the local Unions fight against great odds, for here the liquor interest is intrenched with mighty power. The nineteen Unions located in the three Districts centered in the city have all been doing valiant service, the West Chicago Union deserving special honorable mention for the splendid work it is doing.

During the past few weeks several of the city daily papers have been advertising for sale, shares in a corporation whose capital is counted by the millions. The prospectus announces that five of the leading breweries of Chicago and one of Milwaukee have combined together with a capital of five and one-half million of dollars, and offer shares for sale of the same. The prospectus farther states that for twelve months ending June 30, 1890, 2,079,313 barrels of beer were consumed in Chicago and Cook county, and that from June 30, 1890, to January 31, 1891, the sales of these combined breweries were more than fifteen per cent. in excess of the corresponding eight months of the previous year. An estimate, which is low in figures, has been made that every barrel nets to the saloon-keeper \$24.00; so at this rate, Cook county and Chicago have paid out over forty-nine million dollars for beer during a period of twelve months.

Against this force of evil, aided as it is by a corrupt ring of politicians composed of some of the worst elements of the country, are we arrayed. Six thousand saloons are running night and day under an un-checked license system. An area of 160 square miles to be covered, a population of a million to be reached. The character of our work is the same that is being done in the country districts, but the *progress* will necessarily be slower, because of the various interests which crowd close upon each other, and the demands made upon time and purse for the many reformatory and benevolent movements being carried on. Last winter special work was done in Chicago.

Conferences were held in the First, Second and Third Districts, which resulted in greater activity in W. C. T. U. work. At these conferences, which were held in different parts of the city, topics of special interest, plans and methods of work were discussed. The impetus thus given by these meetings will result in several new organizations during the coming year. A concerted effort also on the part of all the Unions in the city will be made early this winter, in the organizing of Loyal Temperance Legions in every part of the city by a competent worker

who will give her whole energies to this work. In view of the coming great World's Fair it is desirable that the city shall have many Legions who shall be in active operation and shall be ready to participate in the great temperance jubilees, which shall take place during the Exposition. Never has Chicago seen a more impressive sight than that was witnessed at the time of the laying of the "corner stone" of the Temperance Temple last November, when 2,000 children with banners flying marched through the streets singing, "The saloon—the saloon—the saloon must go." One can never forget this as, standing upon the platform built for the laying of the stone, you looked down La Salle street towards the Board of Trade and saw these many children coming down towards the building—with faces eager and bright, faces having the fearless questioning which childhood always has—the jubilant outlook that they ever carry. It was to them a "red letter day" of promise and hope. What lessons must have been taught to that vast crowd of men and women, who looked out from every window in the vicinity; that stood packed upon the sidewalks, many of whom took off their hats to the bright-faced singing band as they came up to the platform prepared for them. Seed WAS sown on that day, which shall surely bear a fruitful harvest—nay, who of us dare deny that a day of "better things" was not then born which shall wax and increase until it comes to its full meridian glory, which may see that great, busy, metropolis free from the saloon influence, through the efforts of those who have grown up in the faith! Then will the song be,—

"Blow, trumpet, for the world is white with May;
 Blow trumpet, the long night hath roll'd away;
 Blow thro' the living world—*'Let the King reign'*""

OUR DEAD.

We have lost from our roll books over one hundred sixty-six, who have gone from us, active workers many of them, who have laid down burdens to take up perfect joy.

God calls our loved ones, but we lose not wholly
 What He hath given.
 They live on earth in thought and deed as truly
 As in His Heaven.

And so we can close the record of a year's local work done by the rank and file, those who make it possible for the greater work to be done. There is a true, loyal comradeship in this work which makes each one the keeper of the other, and brings together as one our membership. The record made by our women for the cause's sake is honorable and without blemish. *True* as steel to principle, loyal to the organization, there is marching to-day as valiant a set of Crusaders as ever risked all

for an idea, as true an "Old Guard" as ever rallied round an organization. To the world they have given these words :

Against ALL forms of the License of the Liquor Traffic, standing by the voter wherever and whenever the ballot is cast for PROHIBITION.

MORAL SUASION work for the drinker.

LEGAL SUASION for the SELLER.

Annihilation of the traffic.

Enfranchisement of women.

NO COMPROMISE IN THE FIGHT.

Such is the PLATFORM OF THE ILLINOIS W. C. T. U. and the world knows well the *record* it has made upon THIS BASIS.

SEED THOUGHTS.

In reviewing the work which has been accomplished in the Districts during the last year, I desire briefly to touch upon several points, wherein it seems possible to advance our work, and make it *more* effective.

First : As to organization. The possibilities of this department are far-reaching which the future should see as being *realized*. Each year we report new Unions—each year also *dead ones*. Were *all* the Unions living to-day that have been organized by us during the seventeen years of our existence as a State W. C. T. U., we should have covered more than one-half of *all* the towns and cities, villages and country places in the State; as it is we lack a good many hundreds of having that number. We shall never come up to the "high water mark," as we have said in the past, in the State being thoroughly and *fully organized*, until every District has a salaried President who can give her whole or a large share of her time to the work of her District, organizing, visiting, planning, counseling, having *complete charge* and *oversight* of all of her territory. It may not be necessary for her to be in the field all the time, but a President should have placed at her disposal such financial aid, that she shall be able to answer all calls that may come to her for help in organizing, for proper literature, or other things that may be required of her. The seventeen years of work, *should have* developed women of ripe experience, tact, and a thorough knowledge of the work to make it possible for *every* District to be *thus* officered. The Districts who have adopted the plan of having a worker constantly in the field are the ones who are having an increase in membership and new organizations, and I am glad to note that so many of the Districts in the State are coming to realize the importance of this and are planning liberal things for the future.

Again : The importance of having all new Unions organized only by authorized workers. Concerning this, I wish to lay great stress, and impress it upon all of our women's minds. The same *carefulness* as to detail, the giving to the new members all the information necessary for

the successful carrying on of work, is *not* found to be the case when Unions are organized by those who are not competent organizers. Our District Presidents are almost a unit upon this point, and have so given in their verdict. One President, in answer to my question asked of her concerning such organization says : " I find very few of the details of our work are set before the people as they should be, hence the utter failure of such organizers." Another says, "No special instructions are given to the women thus organized concerning our lines of work ; and they are organized, and left to live or die as the case may be." Such testimony and similar ones which have come to me from very many sources, only strengthens the position taken by us, that our Unions should be organized by W. C. T. U. *women*—and by those only who have had experience, and who can give time to the work of organizing, and instruction upon all points necessary to be understood by the new membership. No Union should be organized at the close of an evening address, when the audience is weary, and the hour is late, but rather should *hours* be given to organizing when all the desired information may be given. Public sentiment in favor of our cause can be stirred up on the platform by the lecturer—but the fruits of such seed-sowing come *afterwards* when the intelligent worker fully understanding the needs of the case, gathers together into an organization the *crystallized sentiment* concerning the cause. And may I say more upon the question of public lecturing ? Such men and women, who bring *ability, character, reputation* to the cause, who on the platform are arousing the public on the great question of total abstinence, these are doing a work, grand and effective, and we should lend willing and helping hands to all such,—but I do declaim against those who assume to teach "the doctrines," whose views concerning the great cause are limited, and ideas concerning the work are not clear cut. The day has gone by for the lecturer to repeat the obsolete joke, or tell the doubtful story or recite personal experiences which had better be left untold—the day has gone by for *all such* utterances from the platform, for the *great listening public* are asking that THE TRUTH alone be given them, and along the line of clear reasoning, good logic well-grounded arguments.

How to occupy Territory, which is not yet fully taken possession of for God and Home and Native Land, has been one of the *chief* thoughts of many of our leading workers. To distribute literature, to hold public meetings, conventions in such places where there is a meager knowledge of the W. C. T. U. has occupied the attention of many, and with *grand results* and I trust that redoubled efforts will be made upon this line next year.

Second : " How to make the work of the Districts more effective." One answer is, the necessity of having *more* educational work done amongst the membership as to the *methods, purpose, aims* of the work. The *enlistment* of women who will make good leaders, who have executive ability, is another very important thing to do. To accomplish this,

"Schools of Methods" should be carried on, parliamentary drills and other instructive meetings held, which shall be aids to impart knowledge on vital points. *Presenting the work in an attractive manner, discussing intelligently all of our departments, and so explaining the different objects thus to be obtained that indifference and apathy may disappear on the part of the hearer into a desire to know more.* The universal cry of the century is, "Give us more light, more knowledge, more understanding!" It is an *hour of investigation and research!* While there is much of ignorance, indifference, prejudice, to all advance movements which have for their *objective* point the bettering of the human race, there is, I believe, a still greater and mightier sentiment in *favor* of such movements that are helpful, and everywhere can be seen groups of earnest men and women who are *thinkers, students, upon economic, social, political, reform, religious questions, the concensus of whose thought helps onward the coming of a day of "glorious things."*

Therefore, I want in view of this to again emphasize the necessity where our W. C. T. U. work and the cause of Prohibition is presented, to do it *intelligently, with judgment, with a careful statement of facts,* and the presentation of the *principles* underlying all our plans, so that the hearing public may have a clear, unprejudiced case given to them.

Third: Finance. A mighty question indeed for us to consider and the work to be done in *this line* is almost limitless! A *vital question*, and one to be enlarged upon and to be made much of. A broad view should be had of Finance and in its relation to State, District, County and local work, liberal ideas should be cultivated by all the workers. A dollar well spent, usually, in our W. C. T. U. work doubles itself in the good returned. I understand well how very little of money *our* women as a rule have, but I do believe in "*systematic giving,*" and while *all* may not be able to give a large per cent of the yearly income, every one of us *can* give something which will help to increase other amounts given. What a *vast* work there is yet remaining for us to do for "*total abstinence*" in Illinois; how many fields yet untouched! Surely, let us in our endeavors to occupy them, cultivate a spirit in regard to financial questions that will put in the "*treasure house*" money which shall help to spread the *great truths*, and may we become more convinced of the *greatness* of our purpose and not narrow down our vision line, but think only of the magnificent work which may be done, through our National, State, District, County and Local Unions, each being a link in the chain, and *necessary* to our final success.

Briefly, then, I have touched in this outlook *some* of the obstacles which our workers, local and District, have reported as existing, and I have gathered them together for review, but I want to change our point of view, and look now from that angle which shall tell us just what *has been accomplished*, and what

THINGS WE HAVE TO ENCOURAGE US.

The work of this year compares most favorably with that done last year, but is of a somewhat different nature. Last year much time was spent in organizing new Unions; *this* year more effort has been put in the work of establishing more firmly our already existing societies, and in strengthening the weak places. Every District reports an advance having been made on general lines, not merely as to new organizations and membership, but in the educational influences which have been called in activity. As the years have rolled along, and the work has steadily progressed, a good deal of prejudice has melted away, and as the understanding has been enlightened, fairer criticisms are given concerning our methods. Women are becoming more interested in the work of our organization, a deeper sense of loyalty to the cause of woman is being cultivated and a broader outlook concerning the great questions which run as parallel currents with our own. These things are to me most favorable signs, and are auspicious omens for the future. A special feature I might mention is that of Gospel work. Last year was reported an increase of at least fifty per cent. in this work of saving souls; this year we have had at least twenty per cent. more of revival services held and Gospel work carried on. If it could have been arranged for, I could have had every day and evening filled for Mrs. Rounds this last winter to carry on revival services in churches. The church knows full well that the saloon is one of its *greatest stumbling-blocks* in the building up of Christ's Kingdom. Infidelity, skepticism, blatant atheism are less of drags on the car of salvation than the *saloon*, which kills the physical, mental, spiritual life of a man, and makes of him a wreck indeed. Therefore, many churches are glad of the help our W. C. T. U. can give in revival work.

Personal work done is another feature which characterizes this year's work, and no more effective means can be taken than this. Each year the interest is more manifest to know about W. C. T. U. methods, and the worker finds that in personal work the greatest results are obtained, and that a sentiment is built up which puts itself many times on record in our favor.

Method, Classification, is becoming more of a rule among our "white-ribboners," and shows that individual responsibility is being awakened on this subject of "How can our work be made more effective?"

As troops that are daily drilled in military tactics march better, know how to handle their arms better, understand more what is expected of them in a fight, so does our membership the more systematically work, and the better keep in step with the spirit of the cause, as the years come and go, and find them at their posts doing *their duty*. I firmly believe that some day our State motto, "All Illinois for God and Temperance," shall have become a *reality*, and that the "white-ribbon-

ers" shall have had a large share in bringing about this blessed time.

We thus can be encouraged by the work which has been accomplished the last year. A work educatory in character, educatory among the membership, educatory in the great public arena, leaving an impress, which time will only deepen, as to its worth and necessity.

LEGISLATIVE WORK.

The Legislature at its last session granted us the School Election Bill, the text of which is familiar to us all:—

"An Act to Entitle Women to Vote at any Elections held for the purpose of Choosing any Officer under the General or Special or School Laws of this State."

Sec. 1. Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Illinois Represented in the General Assembly: Any woman of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, belonging to either of the classes mentioned in Article 7 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, who shall have resided in this State one year, in the County ninety days, and in the election district thirty days next preceding any election held for the purpose of choosing any officer of schools under the general or special school law of this State, shall be entitled to vote at such election in the school district of which she shall at the time have been for thirty days a resident; *Provided* any woman so desirous of voting at any such election shall have been registered in the same manner as is provided for the registration of male voters.

Sec. 2. Whenever the election of public school officers shall occur at the same election at which other public officers are elected, the ballot offered by any woman entitled to vote under this act, shall not contain the name of any person to be voted for at such election except such officers of public school; and such ballots shall all be deposited in a separate ballot box, but canvassed with other ballots cast for school officers at such election."

At our last Convention it was decided that we, as a State, should do some legislative work, and Mrs. L. S. Rounds, Mrs. Eva Munson Smith, and myself, as chairman of the committee, were appointed, and at the midwinter Executive meeting held at Chicago, the plan of work concerning the bill was adopted, and the bill was prepared and sent from Headquarters to Springfield. Hon. T. C. McMillan, of Chicago, presented it for us in the Senate and Representative G. A. Neal, of Janesville, Coles county, in the House. The bill in the Senate was given to the "Committee on Education and Educational Institutions," and was numbered Bill No. 160. In the House it was referred to the "Committee on Elections" and was numbered No. 465. Senator McMillan and Representative Neal were both very cordial in their answer to my requests asking them to present the bill. Senator McMillan was untiring in his efforts to secure its passage in the Senate and gave much and valuable time for this purpose. The Senate in the middle of its session passed the bill. In the House it was the last measure passed by them, the

gavel of the Speaker falling after the vote upon it had been announced, adjourning the Thirty-seventh General Assembly. Representative H. H. Moore, of Wayne county, did valiant service for us in the House, and was the means of calling the attention of his colleagues to the bill, championing it in an able speech, which secured its passage. The roll-call of the Senate shows that there were 29 yeas, 4 nays: In the House, 83 yeas, 43 nays: I should like very much, if it were possible, to give a list of all those friends who voted for the bill—a list, however has been sent to the *Watch Tower* giving a roster of the names, which has already appeared. Very kindly letters came from many of the legislators, some of whom have stood for our Scientific Temperance bill, and are friendly to W. C. T. U. methods. The work in the Legislature was done largely by personal letter-writing by those who are part of the voting constituency, being asked to do this by our women to whom all the credit must be given for the work which was done for the passage of the bill. The new law *allows* only the voting upon school officers, not upon any other questions which may be connected with the schools. State and County Superintendents, Township Trustees and School Directors, are the officers we can vote for. There are fifteen school districts where women only can vote for State and County superintendents. These are Chicago, Quincy, Urbana, Vandalia, Galena, Elgin, Alton, Upper Alton, Macomb, Bushnell, Litchfield, Springfield, Danville, Rockford, Jacksonville. In these places boards of education are appointed, not elected by the people. In Glencoe, La Harpe, Waukegan, Lake Forest and Oneida, the council manages the schools, or is the board of education. Outside of these named towns women can vote on all the officers.

WHAT THE BILL COVERS.

The new law covers the voting by women for State Superintendent, County Superintendent, Township Trustees, School Directors, Boards of Education.

State and County Superintendents are elected every four years. The next election takes place the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1894.

Trustees for School Townships are elected annually the second Saturday in April.

District Directors are elected annually on the third Saturday of April, when one director shall be elected who shall hold his office three years.

In all school districts having a population of 1,000 and not over 100,000 inhabitants, which are not governed by any special act in relation to free schools, there is elected instead of directors a *Board of Education*, and the annual election of such takes place the third Saturday in April.

In cities having a population exceeding 100,000 inhabitants, the board of education is appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the common council.

Incorporated cities and villages, except those having control of the schools by special acts, are subject to the general provisions of the school law.

ELIGIBILITY OF WOMEN FOR OFFICE.

Any woman twenty-one years of age, resident of the State and who is able to read and write in the English language, is eligible for any office of School Director, Board of Education, Township Trustee, State or County Superintendent, or Regent.

REGISTRATION.

The new Australian Ballot Law, under which our State is now working, provides for a system of registration which will have to be complied with : First, *residence*; second, *address*; third, *nativity*; fourth, term of residence ; fifth, native, or naturalized. It will not be the case very probably with many Boards of Registry, or Election Commissioners, to deny the women the right to register, for there are grave doubts as to the right of such to be done, for it will no doubt be thought that the wisest thing to do is to let the courts decide the legality of the case.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE LAW.

There will be objections raised by many concerning the constitutionality of the law, and a test case, no doubt, will be made as to its legality. We must not, however, be daunted by this, but comply with the forms required and offer our votes. There are now twenty-one States where women vote upon school questions, eighteen of which have the right by legislative enactment, three by Constitutional Amendment. It is being generally conceded that the words, "*male voter*," which occur in the Constitution, do not bar the giving of suffrage to women. Exhaustive articles from able pens prove this fact in a clear and uncontrovertible way. Charles Sumner, whose ability as a clear thinker, logical reasoner, is unquestioned, in a speech made in the Thirty-ninth Congress, said: "I have no hesitation in saying that universal suffrage is a universal right, subject only to such regulations as the safety of society may require. These may concern (1) age, (2) character, (3) registration, (4) residence."

The *pivotal* point on which the whole question swings, is "has the State the power to forbid the Legislature the giving of the ballot to women?" As we understand State Constitutions, they are not grants of power or of rights, but are *limitations* upon the *powers* of the State Legislatures. The IX Amendment to our National Constitution says

distinctly that the enumeration in "the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny and disparage others retained by the people."

When the first Constitution of this State was adopted in 1818, no restrictions were placed upon the Legislature as to its acts of legislation. But in the Constitutions of 1848 and 1870 special legislation was prohibited upon certain points, but the cases thus enumerated in nowise touch the qualification of voters, nor deny the power to the Legislative Assembly of extending the privilege to certain classes, if they so choose. Criminals, minors, and foreigners not naturalized, are the only persons who can not be voters.

Let us, for instance, suppose that the State Constitution had been so framed that no class of persons had been designated as the ones to vote, would any one deny the right of the Legislature to pass a statutory act providing for the privileges of the ballot to be given to men? If such acts can be passed covering *one* case they certainly can another. If the *right* of a Legislature to pass such enactments could be argued in a court *free* from all prejudice, we believe that upon the merits of the case and the logical reasoning which would be given, the verdict could not but be in the affirmative. While Article VII of the State Constitution says that the "*male citizen*" shall be the voter, it *does not* by this say that women may not also be given the power; rather does the article mean that the *Legislature can not* pass a statute which shall abridge the right of any male citizen to vote who has the proper qualifications. I think a great bugbear has been created in the talk about certain things being *unconstitutional*; *no law* can be that which in its workings has the best interest of the State at heart, which aims to help enforce its laws, and to promote the welfare of its citizenship, and so enlarge its environments that forces only for good may be added to its sovereignty.

WHAT WILL BE GAINED IN THE FUTURE.

The passage of this bill means that after many years a partial recognition of the principle of Home Protection has been granted. The mammoth petition which was presented to the Legislature in 1879 with 175,000 names attached, 90,000 of whom were voters, was the commencement of a great contest which has been kept up ever since, and which now after years of seed sowing is bearing fruit. For years we have been doing a great work, and building a wall, and while many Sanballots have called out to us to come and meet them, we have always answered: "We are doing a great work, so that we can not come down; *why* should our work cease and come down to you?"

Personally, I shall offer to be registered at my home in Evanston; if denied, shall have the proper papers made out and go before some judge and ask that a decision be made that I be allowed to register. If a favorable decision is given me, then I shall vote; if unfavorable,

shall take wise counsel and wait for developments. In every event let us do *our part* honestly, believing that we have a right to vote. Let the opposition make the fight against us. We are on the line of *defense*; let those who will, be the opposing force. If the courts decide against us, and declare that it is unconstitutional and deny us a right to vote, let us *not* be disheartened, but go on with renewed courage to still wage the contest. Of this one thing I feel assured, that if a test case is made of the law, the arguments which will be given for and against will prove to be great educational forces, and will push on the faster the great cause of womanhood, opening the eyes and enlightening the understanding of many upon this one subject, giving an impetus to the question that will make it leap a long way ahead. The politicians may deny and *thwart* for a time the *coming* of the enfranchisement for women—one might as well attempt to stop the thundering of mighty Niagara as it leaps, foam crested, over the rocks, or stand on its brinks and cry out in puny, weak voice to that mountainous mass of waters to *stop* flowing—as to think that the *outcoming* of this *great cause* can be checked because the *politicians* may not think best to have the ballot given to us. So, dear comrades, whichever way the battle goes, let us say in this sacred cause as Garrison did in the streets of Boston amidst a pro-slavery mob, “I am in earnest; I will not retreat a *single* inch; *I will be heard!*”

THE FUTURE.

The future—what has it in store for our great cause? Only God knoweth the end, but we are the human agencies through which He works toward the finality of the liquor traffic, and it is for this we have been put into position. We are in times *full* of prophecies which will be fulfilled, and I am glad that the W. C. T. U. is a *living, moving, active agent for good* in this hour of the century. Little hope would there be as to the outcome of the work, little incentive to go on with the enterprise, if we did not have the assurance that God is *true* to His promises. Wealth, influence, political power, and a thousand other potent agents may combine one with another; the structure thus reared is *unsound and rotten*. It is always safe to reason that there is a *limit* to which evil can reach. After that is touched, comes an overturning time, the measure of iniquity is full, and forces which have perhaps been unseen have compassed the destruction.

I have of late been pondering on the truth, as grandly expressed by Rev. Frank Gunsaulus, of Chicago, in a book recently written by himself and applying it to our age:

“France declined the Reformation, but France two and one-half centuries later was *compelled* to accept the *Revolution*, and the world was taught again, that statesmanship is the *art* of finding out in what direction Almighty God is going, and getting things *out* of His way.”

Are we "white-ribboners" statesmen, in the sense of finding out in which direction God is moving in the temperance work, and are we doing all we can to get the way ready for His coming? Well may there be a searching of each one's heart as this question is put individually, and should make us more faithful to hasten on the coming of the King. Many friends are there yet in *our* State waiting for seed-sowing, much of underbrush must yet be cleared, many paths yet to be blazed, many places yet too dark to have the flash light of truth turned on them.

Will our beloved country have a *Reformation* or a *Revolution*? Will it see soon the day in which the white stones of purity and peace are set?—or come yet upon it days of darkness, and whirlwinds of disaster? Will it shake off from itself the chains of the liquor traffic, or will it as Samson, shorn of its strength by this Delilah of evil, bring down upon itself destruction? We face the future, asking these questions, and a Sphinx-like answer comes: "Be faithful and the promises shall be fulfilled."

Let us remember that he who is master of himself is a greater one than he who taketh a city. Illogical conclusions, tirades, virulent attacks, will not gain the same advantages that the use of reason and argument will. The church in its work may not do *all* that it might in the Prohibition cause, let us remember, but thousands of its members are of the faith. If we in our energy and zeal have in the race outstripped the moral sense of the church on this question, if society is slow to understand the meaning of the new standard we have set up, if political pools still remain turbid, let us not *violently assail*, nor beat the air in empty endeavors, but rather turn loose an avalanche of facts, truths, arguments and batter at the gates with such weapons, until prejudice and ignorance must yield or else give way defeated. The spirit of truth is *not* confined by *creed*, is not clothed in *ecclesiasticism*, is not held in bondage by church polity, but finds for itself a lodgment in the heart, brain, souls, never ceasing in its efforts to open the eyes of the blind, unstopp deaf ears, quicken the conscience. Let us then, dear comrades arise and go forward, go onward, leading upward, with an unswerving determination to push the battle on, with a calm spirit; never yielding to the enemy, remembering in *whose* army we have enlisted, *whose* cause we are fighting, remembering that if but *one* day only is ours, we must make it *count* on the side of right, *count* for *all* eternity. Set as we are for the *defense* of a great truth, let us then be true, brave, of mighty faith.

We should waste no moments in weak regret,
 If the day were but *one*;
 If what we remember and what we forget
 Went out with the sun,

We should be from our clamorous selves set free
To work or to pray,
And to be what the Father would have us be
If we had but a day.

We should guide our wayward or wearied wills
By the clearest light ;
We should keep our eyes on the heavenly hills,
If they lay in sight ;
We should trample the pride and discontent
Beneath our feet ;
We should take whatever a good God sent
With a *trust complete*.

THE PRESIDENT'S WORK IN ILLINOIS AND IN OTHER STATES.

MRS. LOUISE S. ROUNDS.

There is no spectacle to-day of more wonderful significance and beauty than the steady march of the great white-ribbon forces as they go forth to win the world for Christ.

Every nation on the earth has had at some time its conquering heroes, but never did they fail to leave behind them bloodshed, terror, death and sorrow, even though they fought for liberty, justice and truth. The world has had great and famous warriors, and they have often been given names of significance as if to identify them more closely with the revolution or subjugation to which they had dedicated their lives. History tells us of one, more terrible, perhaps, than any other, Attila, the King of the Huns, who, centuries ago, conceived the idea that he was to conquer and rule the world.

So fierce were his soldiers, so terrible his battles, so frightful the carnage and desolation which followed his track, that he called himself, and insisted that others should call him, "The Scourge of God." It became a common saying that where the hoof of Attila's horse had trod, the grass never grew again.

Well might this most terrible of men fitly represent the monstrous tyrant whose name none of us can even think of without a shudder—King Alcohol! Scourge of Hell!

Over the countries blasted by this enemy of man, over the frightful ruins of homes and hearts, straight to the battle-fields of slaughtered thousands—comes this blessed army of Home Protectors, and on our ensign is the cross, for by this sign we conquer ;—

"In the cross of Christ we glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time,
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime."

Once more I lay my yearly record at your feet, beloved comrades, conscious that it is but a poor pen picture of what I have tried to do for our beloved State.

The demands upon my time and strength have never been so great as during this year. I have responded to only a few calls from other States, thus giving Illinois by far the larger portion of my time. Near

the close of December the not unexpected summons came, and I hastened to the bedside of my dying brother.

When the precious sufferer was at last released, it seemed wise for me to go aside for a little while and rest; and being near Clifton Springs, that most restful of all earthly spots, I turned thitherward and dropped my burden at His feet, returning to Illinois the middle of February.

Immediately upon the close of our last State Convention, I went to Wisconsin to give the dear white-ribboners over there a little help. Coming back to Illinois the record of the year is as follows:

First District.—But three Unions visited—Englewood and Town of Lake, also South Englewood. Had a crowded church Sunday evening at Town of Lake, and the Conference at South Englewood very profitable to all.

This District is on up-grade, and the Unions are eagerly pushing the work. Mrs. Bassett is doing bravely the hard duties incident to the life of an active District President.

Third District.—The West Side Union covers a great field and demands consecrated workers. The ever wide-awake President sets a good example and many laurels this Union has worthily won and worn during the year now brought to a close.

Fifth District.—Visited five Unions in this banner District. Genoa gave me a hearty welcome in March, and Batavia followed with small, but attentive audiences. St. Charles and Harvard keep the altar fires burning; and in July, Woodstock bore off the palm of County Conferences for attendance, interest and helpful enthusiasm.

It is not hard to suspect the President of the District as being the cause of so much activity on the part of the rank and file, for her vocabulary contains no such word as failure,—consecrated effort never fails; somewhere the fallen seed will take root and yield a harvest.

Sixth District.—Rochelle, Shannon and Stillman Valley are the only places visited in this District. At Shannon succeeded in reorganizing the Union with ten members. Mrs. Dr. Smith is ever ready to lend a hand, and urges forward the local work. The audience that greeted me at Stillman Valley, was small, but those who attended had love and enthusiasm enough to more than make up the loss of numbers. Rochelle moves steadily forward and holds the fort through evil as well as good report.

Seventh District.—Princeton heads the list in this District and was also the first place I visited in the State after the State Convention. My reception here was of the royal kind, and I was rejoiced to find the able principal of the high school among the foremost who desire to see the "better day" dawn for the land. He did what but few men in his position have ever done for my meetings, viz.: To close the school at an early hour so that principal and pupils could attend. At Woodhull I spent a Sabbath and the meetings were largely attended.

Tiskilwa always has her latch-string out, and always gives me hearty welcome. Kewanee is a place I hold dear because of the work on my first visit. Neponset is a Union of live workers. These women are never troubled to find work, or ways to do it. They keep abreast of every call and go "forward."

Eighth District.—Ottawa stands alone in this District as having received of my work. The District Convention held here September 29th and 30th, I was very glad to be able to attend. On the earnest invitation of Prof. J. O. Leslie, I spoke to the high school girls on Wednesday forenoon. About 130 were in attendance, and gave most earnest attention. The teachers and girls presented me with a beautiful bouquet of white roses, and a lovely book in token of love and appreciation. The audiences both evenings at the Baptist church were large, and interest strongly manifested. At this Convention I secured the largest number of subscriptions to *The Watch Tower* of any Convention I have attended in the State; twenty-eight names having been handed me.

Ninth District.—Lacon, Chatsworth, Sheldon and Wellington are on the list. The County Convention at Chatsworth was one of the best I ever attended, and Sheldon bore off many laurels. At Wellington I re-organized the Union, and at Lacon was warmly welcomed to the hearts and homes of the faithful.

Mrs. Wright has done splendid work in her District and measures grandly up to the demands upon her. The Unions of this District keep step to the music of the State plans.

Tenth District.—Table Grove, Vermont, Abingdon, Maquon and Canton are the places visited in this District. Two County Conventions and the District Convention at Canton enabled me to note with gratitude the increased activity. The well-beloved President has twice been called this year to stand by the graves of loved ones, but she has found the strong arm of One who never fails, her support, and His presence her abiding peace. Miss Mary Hazzard, of Galesburg, has done grand work in her county as the Convention at Maquon fully indicated. The District Convention was one of the best in the State.

Eleventh District.—Eight places visited: Hampton, Good Hope, Kirkwood, New Windsor, Carthage, Elvaston, Terre Haute, Prairie City.

Time and space forbids my saying all I would like to of the work and workers in these places. They seem to have caught the spirit of their energetic and consecrated President, and are pushing the work forward with ever-increasing zeal. The County Conventions were full of interest, and but for the extremely hot weather, the District Convention would have been much larger.

Twelfth District.—Mrs. Kuhl, the tireless President of this District, arranged for quite an extended trip through her territory, and I found at every place most earnest workers.

Ashland, Kane, Mt. Sterling, Mendon, Coatsburg, Virginia, Beardstown, Carrollton and last, Winchester, at which place the District Con-

vention was held. Last year, I was able to visit but two places in this District; this year nine have received my services. The Twelfth District always measures grandly up on finances, and who can tell how much the ever faithful, but modest Financial Secretary has done to bring about such grand results? Her yearly report on finances at the District Convention, is worthy of all praise.

Fourteenth District.—Monticello, Normal, Kenney, New Holland, Warrensburg and Atlanta form the list of places I have visited in the banner district of the State. I should hardly feel at home in Illinois, if I did not hear voices from this District calling for my services. Miss Crissey has made a noble record this year as President, and the work at every place I visited has been progressive. Monticello has called me twice this year to her lovely city, and I have greatly enjoyed my work there. Mrs. Moffitt, the President of Piatt county, is second to none in fidelity, in service and watchfulness over the Unions of the county. The Y's are very active. Normal has many attractions beside the beautiful new Headquarters which I helped to dedicate. The home of our beloved State Superintendent of Evangelistic Work, is there, and the latch-string always out to the tired W. C. T. U. worker who may drift that way. How often my weary feet have turned toward that home; how often have I there been rested and comforted.

Fifteenth District.—Visited three places only—Potomac, Rantoul and Fisher. This District has taken gigantic leaps forward during the last two years, and both members and money have come to the front. Miss Parrish has done excellent work, and has gone often beyond her strength in trying to bring the District up to high grade. Mrs. Goldman has been untiring in her efforts, and these two leaders have been reinforced by the willing hearts and hand of the rank and file.

Seventeenth District.—Medora, Donnellson and Effingham are all I find on the list for this District. Two County Conventions and the District Convention were held at these places with marked interest. But few towns in Illinois can boast of such indefatigable workers as Mr. and Mrs. Kepley, of Effingham. The county is fairly ablaze with their enthusiasm and culminated in September in one of the grandest District Conventions ever held in the State. Numbers, enthusiasm, good cheer—a big tent crowded each evening—children's rally—Demorest Contests—all conserved the cause and gave interest to the occasion.

The Seventeenth District contains a model District Treasurer, and a wise and well beloved District President. System is written on everything in the Seventeenth District W. C. T. U. work, and results are grand accordingly. This District knows what to do and how to do it.

Eighteenth District.—Was able to visit but three places in this District—Upper Alton, where I spoke for the Y's, and had a royal good time, and at East St. Louis, at the Annual District Convention at which, in spite of the overwhelming heat, the Convention interest did not flag—good attendance, finances well to the front, with the women rallying to

the work, marks this territory under the wise leadership of their faithful District President. Spent a Sabbath at Greenville, which will be long remembered by myself as being one of the hottest days I ever endured, but the great heat did not prevent the church from being filled twice with people eager to hear of our work.

Nineteenth District.—Reached but one place in this District, *Salem*, where the District Convention was held. This was one of the most tender-spirited Conventions that has been held in the State. The beloved Mrs. Board was re-elected without a dissenting vote, and her few touching words of acceptance left us all in tears, not of sorrow, but of joy that God has still such noble consecrated workers. The old Nineteenth comes bravely up on finances and on lines of work.

Twentieth District.—Carbondale, Ava, Murphysboro and Vienna are the names on the list. At Carbondale the District held a very successful Convention, and here I obtained twenty subscribers to our State paper; thus standing second on the list of District Convention subscriptions. At Ava I was royally welcomed and held two evening and one afternoon meeting, with good results. At Murphysboro the Opera House was crowded on Sunday evening to hear addresses on Social Purity. We expect the District to advance this year and do grand work.

This closes the record for the year, and I write the summary with feelings of deep regret that it is not a better record; one more complete in all love's tenderness and gentleness. I have had so little, that I might say I have had no time, for quiet communing with God. The pressure of the work grows yearly more and more heavy, but in the midst of the duties, I rejoice that this very pressure means greater demands for labor and greater interest on the part of the people in the temperance cause. Sometimes the years seem so long as they stretch away into the distant future, and progress is so slow, and then there comes a rush of tender memories of the far-away past, "the touch of a vanished hand," and a great faintness of heart comes to me, and I long for unbroken rest; and then out of the depths I cry:

"Slow-footed years! More swiftly run
Into the gold of that unsetting sun.
Homesick I am for thee,
Calm land beyond the sea."

SUMMARY.

ILLINOIS.

Number of Districts receiving work, 15; number of Counties receiving work, 41; number of District Conventions attended, 8; number of County Conventions attended, 18; number of White Cross and Social Purity addresses, 23; whole number of addresses, 178.

WISCONSIN.

Attended two District Conventions, one County Convention, gave nine Social Purity addresses; whole number of addresses, 58.

NEW YORK.

Attended one County Convention, gave one Social Purity address, whole number of addresses, 6.

MICHIGAN.

Attended State Convention, gave one Social Purity address; whole number of addresses, 2.

MISSOURI.

Gave Fourth of July address; whole number of addresses, 2.

KANSAS.

Attended State Convention; gave one address.

IOWA.

Attended one District Convention; whole number of addresses, 3.
Whole number of addresses for the year, 251.

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